

**SAINTS MARKELLA AND DEMETRIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH**

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**10th Sunday of Luke  
Conception of the Theotokos**



According to the ancient tradition of the Church, since Saint Anna, the Ancestor of God, was barren, she and her husband Joachim remained without children until old age. Therefore, sorrowing over their childlessness, they besought God with a promise that, if He were to grant them the fruit of the womb, they would offer their offspring to Him as a gift. And God, hearkening to their supplication, informed them through an Angel concerning the birth of the Virgin. And thus, through God's promise, Anna conceived according to the laws of nature, and was deemed worthy to become the mother of the Mother of our Lord.

# WORSHIP GUIDE

December 9, 2018

## **Resurrectional Apolytikion, Mode 3**

Let all things above in heav'n rejoice, and let all things below on earth be glad. With all the might and strength of His arm an eternal deed the Lord did perform. Beneath His feet He has trampled down death by death, and first born of the dead has He become. From the womb of Hades has He delivered us, and to all the world has granted His great redeeming mercy.

## **Apolytikion for the Feast, Mode 4**

Today the bonds of childlessness are broken. For hearing the prayers of Joachim and Anne, God promised that against all hope they would give birth to the Maiden of God. He, the Uncircumscribed, would be born of her, when He would become man, and by the Angel's example, He commands us to call to her: "Rejoice, Maiden full of the grace, the Lord is with you."

## **Troparion of St. Markella, Mode 1**

Obedient to the laws of the Lord and to His divine teachings, you kept them blamelessly, O Markella and being frightened of the violence of your father who pursued you. O pure bride of Christ you hid in the mountains where he found you and took your life. Glory to Him who has given you strength, Glory to Him who has crowned you, Glory to Him who works healings through you to everyone.

## **Troparion of St. Demetrios, Mode 3**

The world found in you a great champion in danger. A victor who could turn the nations back. As you restrained Levi in the arena, you also inspired Nestor to courage. Therefore, Holy Great Martyr Demetrios, entreat Christ God, to grant us great, great mercy!

## **Kontakion for the Feast, Mode 4**

On this day the whole wide world is celebrating that Saint Anne conceived a child, which was a miracle of God. And she gave birth to the one who bore the divine Logos, in ways passing speech and thought.

## **EPISTLE READING**

**Prokeimenon. Grave Mode. Psalm 63.**  
The righteous man shall be glad in the Lord.

*Hear my voice, O God.*

**The reading is from Paul's Letter to the Galatians (4:22-27)**

Brethren, Abraham had two sons, one by a slave and one by a free woman. But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, the son of the free woman through promise. Now this is an allegory: these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar. Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. For it is written, "Rejoice, O barren one who does not bear; break forth and shout, you who are not in travail; for the children of the desolate one are many more than the children of her that is married."

## **GOSPEL READING**

**The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Luke (13:10-17)**

At that time, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years; she was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. And when Jesus saw her, he called her and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity." And he laid his hands upon her, and immediately she was made straight, and she praised God. But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the sabbath, said to the people, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be healed, and not on the sabbath day." Then the Lord answered him, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to water it? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?" As he said this, all his adversaries were put to shame; and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by him.

# TODAY IN OUR PARISH

10th Sunday of Luke  
Conception of the Theotokos  
Parish Council Elections

## THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

**Monday, December 10**

Parish Council 6:00 pm

**Wednesday, December 12**

Orthodoxy 101 6:30 pm

**Thursday, December 13**

Philoptochos Christmas Party at Red Lobster 6:00 pm

**Friday, December 14**

Bible Study 9:30 am

**Saturday, December 15**

Church Cleanup Day 9:00 am

**Coffee Hour Host:** *Nadina Garbu*  
**Next Week's Host:** *Katherine Zachiridis*

**Ushers and Greeters:** *Darrin Bell, Cookie Kostopoulos,  
Steve Paros, and Mark Simunovich*

**Altar Boys:** *Elias Arvanitakis, Gabriel Fallon, Zacharias Fletcher,  
Nicolai Kasch, Jonathan Morgan, Jack Pugh,  
Constantine Sneider, and Efstathios Sneider*



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www.stmarkella.org

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS**

Our Christmas Party is Thursday, December 13, at 6:00 pm at Red Lobster. All are invited! Bring a donation of toiletries for OASIS and a \$15 gift to play Dirty Santa.

Giving opportunities for the Christmas season:

Our Angel Tree supports Fort Walton Beach Developmental Center, which is home to adults with developmental disabilities, and is also currently providing shelter for displaced Panama City residents. See the small tree in the hall and pick up a gift tag with a name and gift suggestion. Please bring your wrapped gifts (with the tag attached) by next Sunday, December 16.

Shelter House is a domestic violence shelter in Fort Walton, and they are asking for the following: baby items (size 4, 5, or 6 diapers, wipes, sippy cups, pacifiers); dry and canned goods; cleaning supplies; drinking glasses and coffee mugs; and toiletries (shampoo, conditioner, body wash). Please bring items to the donation table in the hall.

## **NATIVITY PAGEANT DECEMBER 23**

Our Sunday School students will present the Nativity Pageant Sunday, December 23, following the Divine Liturgy, in the Church. Please see Connie Morgan for details and practice dates.

## **EPIPHANY CROSS DIVE JANUARY 6**

Please mark your calendars for our 44th Annual Epiphany Cross Dive and Banquet on Sunday, January 6, 2019. All GOYA-age kids are highly encouraged to participate in the dive. We look forward to a wonderful day together.

## **HOUSE BLESSINGS 2019**

House blessings start following Epiphany services on January 6, and continue until the beginning of Lent, which this year is March 11. Please contact Fr. Thomas if you would like your house blessed this year.

## **GREEK "SNOWBIRD" LUNCHEONS STARTING IN JANUARY**

Our Thursday Greek Luncheon season will be starting up in January, in the church Hall. Volunteers are needed to help as servers and to help in the kitchen. Please see Cookie if you can help out.

## **CONDOLENCES**

Condolences to the family of Sayre Karis, Who fell asleep in the Lord on Monday, November 26, in the Washington DC area. He had been residing in Rockville, MD.

Condolences also to the family of George Kostiou, who fell asleep in the Lord on Thursday, November 29, while at home with his family in Niceville.

# WELCOME

Thank you for joining us today for worship. This is information to help make your worship experience more meaningful.

At 10:00 am the Divine Liturgy, which is the main worship service of the Orthodox Church, begins with the words from the priest “Blessed is the kingdom of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit...”

The beginning of the service may be found on page 1 of the small red book entitled The Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom. Each Sunday the Epistle, Gospel, and certain hymns change to express what is being celebrated that day. This guide has them printed out for you so you may follow along more easily.

We welcome people of all faiths and denominations to worship with us and appreciate your presence. For those who are not Orthodox Christians we ask that you not receive the Holy Communion when it is offered to the congregation. Those visitors who are Orthodox Christians may receive Communion provided you normally receive at your home parish and have not been restricted in any way. For Orthodox Christians, when in doubt whether to receive or not, please ask Fr. Thomas in advance and he will be happy to advise you.

For those of you visiting an Orthodox Christian Church for the first time, we pray that you have a very meaningful worship experience. Orthodox worship reaches all five senses. Through sight with the icons, church architecture and the movement of worship; through smell with the use of incense; through sound through the beauty of the Church music; through taste with the receiving of Holy Communion; and through touch with lighting of candles, crossing oneself, and the veneration of icons.

You will find that the Orthodox place a great emphasis on reverence in worship. Our reverence is serious, but also very joyful as well.

Please ask one of the attendants in the Narthex (the back of the church) if you have any questions. May God continue to bless and keep all of us.

# PRAY FOR YOUR LOVED ONES

Please bring names of your loved ones, both living and deceased, so the priest may pray for them. We pray for all people. With Divine Liturgy, the names of the Orthodox are commemorated during the Proskomidi (the Preparation of the Gifts) and during Liturgy.

Erica Ailes	Angela Hlavity	Joey Newborn
Katia Antonis	Jim Hobson	Butch Otis
Gene & Alexis Bass	Jake Hoskin	Janice Parton
Ruth Briggs	Ben Howard	Anastas Pazevic
The Boltz Family	Cleopatra Hughes & Family	Wes Picard
Lark Tringas Bostick	Nancy Janos	Tina Puffer
Kathy Bowdoin & Family	Katheryn Kaffoglou	Edward Scruggs & Family
Mary Campbell	Mary Spiridoula Kalista	Jim Smith
Mary Ann Carr	Philip Kanellopoulos	Steve Stephanopoulos
Litsa Carrion	Sheree Kanellopoulos	Stanojka Stevanovic
Vonni Cobb	George Karov	David Stewart
Angela Walters Comfort	Craig Kasch	Janet Sutherland
Max Copeland	Georgie Kasch	Col. Philip Trexler
Bob & Ronnie Coradoza	Carl Kruljac	Sue and John Tullis
Jamie Douglas	Atticus LaRoe	Lou Vagias, Sr.
Fr. George Dursa	Julie Mamani	Dana Visoiu
Dorothy Eshelman	Effie Maris	Badra Walters
Zachary Fletcher	Angela McBroom	
Fr. James Foreso	Ariel McBroom	All service men and women
John & Lynne Griffith	Nicholas McBroom	who are deployed overseas
Chryssoula Henderson	George Michas	

## 2018 PARISH COUNCIL CONTACT INFORMATION

Fr. Thomas Guerry	thomasguerry@gmail.com	598-0152 C
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Katrina Thomas	thomas1142@hotmail.com	428-9198 C
Vice President Alex Tringas	a_tringas@yahoo.com	664-6751 H

## STEWARDSHIP 2018

The following individuals/families have submitted a Pledge Card for 2018:

Charles & Margaret Abbate  
Joseph Abbate  
Alexandr Balan and Nikolina Nisiewisz  
Darin Bell  
Betty Jo Billups  
George & Lia Boltz  
Igor and Olena Bodrova  
Tim & Vicki Boolos  
Vonni Cobb  
Harold & Anita Diamond  
Trina Fallon  
Scott & Lynne Fehrenbach  
Keith & Rebecca Fletcher  
Zachary Fletcher  
Malpa Fuller  
Nadina Garbu  
Alan & Mary Gardner  
Peter and Kathryn Gardner  
Alexander Lena & Erik Giannios  
Terri Grammas  
Nick and Linda Holoviak  
Susan Horner  
Cleopatra Hughes  
Alexandra Jazayeri  
Georgia Jenson  
Frederick & Panagiota Johnson  
George & Julia Karov  
Craig & Mariya Kasch  
Barbara "Cookie" Kostopoulos  
Antonia Kruljac-Smith  
Carl & Katy Kruljac  
Helen Kuritz  
Paul & Candace Lamitina  
Alexandra LaRoche  
Alexandr & Cristina Lurenco  
Andrew and Angela McBroom

Louis & Maria McCloud  
Dr. & Mrs. George Michas  
Dr. Paul & Julie Michas  
Thomas Michas  
Constantin & Virginia Mitul  
Connie Morgan  
Matthew & Megan Morgan  
Margaret Morrison  
Nathanael and Sarah Mosley  
Andrew Nicolopoulos  
Joe & Despina O'Neil  
Patricia Overholt  
Nicholas & Tanya Papadopoulos  
Cristian & Adriana Parfene  
Ed and Michelle Parimuha  
Steve & Veta Paros  
Anastas & Betsy Pazevic  
Dale & Molly Perkins  
The Pugh Family  
Giani Purcea & Roxanna Donica  
Fredy and Jackie Rios  
Magdi & Hoda Rizk  
Jeannette Rosa  
Joan Salazar  
Veaceslav & Oxana Sestovschi  
Mark & Iris Simunovich  
Michael & Alexandra Sneider  
Angelos & Katrina Thomas  
Ion & Elena Titu  
Karl & Sandy Trammell  
Alex & Susan Tringas  
Lou Vagias Sr.  
Nicholas & Candace Vlahos  
John Walker  
Joyce & Harold Walter  
Mary Walters  
Maria Zaher

***"As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." (Joshua 24:15)***